

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims

1. -(Currently Amended) The process for forming a filtration module having a feed inlet port, at least one permeate port and retentate port which comprises:
providing a plurality of fluid permeable filtrate spacer layers and a plurality of membrane filter layers,
molding a thermoplastic polymeric sealing composition about the periphery of each of the plurality of fluid permeable filtrate spacer layers,
forming a stack of the [a] plurality of fluid permeable filtrate spacer layers and [a] the plurality of membrane filter layers wherein said spacer layers are positioned alternately with said filter layers in a vertical direction, and
[providing thermoplastic sections secured to said spacer layers in a configuration such that when said sections are melted,] heating the thermoplastic composition of each filtrate spacer layer so as to seal[ing of] alternately positioned spacer layers in said feed inlet port, said at least one permeate port and said retentate port [are effected] such that liquid in said at least one permeate port is not admixed with liquid in said feed port and in said retentate port[, the thickness of said thermoplastic sections being between about 100% and about 125% of the thickness of one of said spacer layers] and to bond the filtrate spacer layers and membrane layers together in a liquid tight arrangement.
2. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein said thickness of said thermoplastic [sections] compositions is between about 1[4]00% and about 12[0]5% of the thickness of one of said filtrate spacer layers.
3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The [module] of Claim [3] 1 further comprising a plurality of feed screens wherein each of said feed screens include a compressible polymeric composition about the periphery of said feed screen and wherein said compressible polymeric composition is between about 100% and about 125% the thickness of said feed screen and the feed screen layers are alternated with a composite layer comprising a filtrate space layer bonded to two membrane layers.
5. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the heating is in a form selected from the group consisting of radiant heat, ultrasonic energy and vibration welding.
6. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the thermoplastic polymer composition is molded in a pattern which effects desired fluid flow through the layers.
7. (New) The process for forming a normal flow filtration module having a feed inlet port and at least one permeate port which comprises:
 - providing a plurality of fluid permeable filtrate spacer layers and a plurality of membrane filter layers,
 - molding a thermoplastic polymeric sealing composition about the periphery of each of the plurality of fluid permeable filtrate spacer layers,
 - forming a stack of the plurality of fluid permeable filtrate spacer layers and the plurality of membrane filter layers wherein said spacer layers are positioned alternately with said filter layers in a vertical direction, and
 - heating the thermoplastic composition of each filtrate spacer layer so as to seal alternately positioned spacer layers in said feed inlet port and at least one permeate port such that liquid in said at least one permeate port is not admixed with liquid in said feed port and to bond the filtrate spacer layers and membrane layers together in a liquid tight arrangement.

8. (New) The of Claim 1 further comprising a plurality of feed screens wherein each of said feed screens include a compressible polymeric composition about the periphery of said feed screen and wherein said compressible polymeric composition is between about 100% and about 125% the thickness of said feed screen and feed spacer layers are alternated with a composite layer comprising a filtrate space layer bonded to two membrane layers.